

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Richard D. Gresham, et al. Atty. Docket: 2877 (203-3419)
Serial No.: 10/720,510 Group: Art Unit - Unknown
Filed: November 23, 2003 Dated: February 26, 2004
For: **SHEATH INTRODUCTION APPARATUS AND METHOD**

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

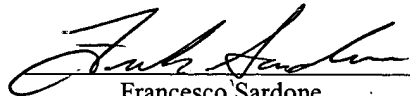
Pursuant to Applicant's continuing duty of disclosure, it is respectfully requested that the disclosures cited in the annexed Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record in the above-identified application. Copies of the foreign references and other prior art are submitted herewith.

An English language translation of DE 19814576A is not available at this time. However, it is respectfully submitted that the contents of DE 19814576A may be readily ascertained from the drawing figures thereof.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postpaid in an envelope, addressed to the: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on February 26, 2004.

Dated: February 26, 2004



Francesco Sardone

The citation of the listed items is not a representation that they constitute a complete or exhaustive listing of the relevant art or that the references are prior art. The items listed are submitted in good faith, but are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner of these particular items, they will assist in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action on the merits in connection with this case.

The claims of the application as now presented are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art and to be in condition for allowance. Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

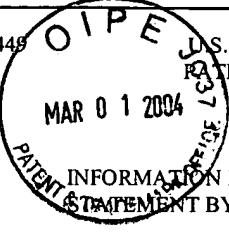
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Francesco Sardone', is written over the typed name.

Francesco Sardone

Reg. No. 47,918

Attorney for Applicants

CARTER, DELUCA, FARRELL & SCHMIDT, LLP
445 Broad Hollow Road, Suite 225
Melville, New York 11747
Telephone: (631) 501-5700
Facsimile: (631) 501-3526

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|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Form PTO-1449  U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary) | ATTY. DOCKET NO. 2877 (203-3419) | SERIAL NO. 10/720,510 |
| | APPLICANTS Richard D. Gresham, et al. | |
| | FILING DATE November 24, 2003 | GROUP ART UNIT - Unknown |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| EXAMINER INITIAL | | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
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* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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